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The Threat of Asiatic Flu

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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July 29, 1957

THE THREAT OF ASIATIC FLU

Mr. President, in recent weeks we have heard considerable about the threat of Asiatic Flu. The August issue of Harper's Magazine contains an engrossing article by Dr. David D. Rutstein entitled, "The Influenza Epidemic". This article considers three questions" How Deadly Will It Be? What Is Causing It? What Can We Do About It? One of the most interesting suggestions to come from this article is that one of the major steps that should be taken in combating an influenza epidemic is stockpiling of antibiotics which are effective against this germ. This is a problem of nation wide interest.

I think there is considerable to be said as to the responsibility of the Federal Government for providing such a stockpile and making arrangements for the allocation of these antibiotics as the need arises.

A flue epidemic seems rather remote to us here in Washington but this epidemic has raised havoc in many European and Asiatic countries. The germ moves fast and strikes within a very short period of time. This is a problem which the Federal Government should recognize in the interest of the health of this country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this Harper's Magazine article be printed at this point in the Congressional Record so that all might study it.

I, also, ask that an article of the July 28 issue of the New York Times entitled "U. S. Put on Alert for Asiatic Flu" be printed in the Record at the conclusion of my remarks.